From Scribbling to Writing

A guide to Fine Motor Development

For Professionals

Early Literacy Specialists
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Parent Resource Centre

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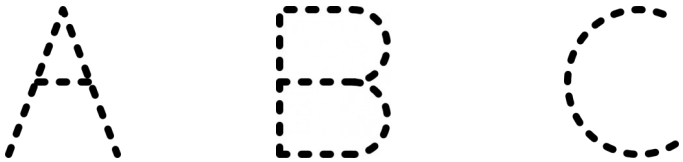
We often believe that to prepare a child to write, we need to give them lots of practice holding and using writing tools. Tracing shapes, alphabets and numbers is a popular method for teaching young children to write. Although this can be helpful, before a child can even begin tracing, they must develop the physical ability to hold and manipulate a writing tool.



How can we help them develop this physical ability?

First, they must develop fine motor skills! Fine motor development not only leads to the ability to draw and write, but is essential for everyday activities. Getting dressed, washing, eating and playing all require a child to grasp objects and manipulate them with their hands.

In order to develop these skills, children need to be exposed to activities that involve grasping and manipulating. This booklet will highlight the specific skills that need to be developed and some ways to help build those skills.

List of Items in Scribbling to Writing Kit

This is a basic 'kit' you can create. Feel free to add any other fine motor activity you feel is needed. New items can be added based on a theme (a book, season, etc) or simply something new and exciting you have come across!

Hammer set
Hammer, nails and foam pad

Elastic Hearts
Pegboards and elastics

Spray Bottles
Empty spray bottles

Token Sort
Plastic tokens and container with slit at the top

Sort with tongs
Cups, pompoms (or other small object) and tongs

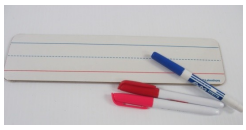
Play dough
Play dough and accessories

Puzzle
Any type of children's puzzle

Straw Sort
Colorful straw pieces and containers to sort

Dice
Large and small dice

Writing
Whiteboard with markers



Q-tip Painting
Q-tips, paint or bingo dabbers and templates

Threading
Shapes with holes and thread

Chalk
Chalkboard and chalk

List of Items in Scribbling to Writing Kit Continued…

Books
Finger play books

Clothes pins
Clothes pins with boards to attach to

Fishing
Fishing rods, fish with magnets

Textured objects
Balls, books, toys, etc.

Yarn drawing
Boards with Velcro, yarn

Sequencing with beads
Rods or string, beads of different sizes and shapes

If you are a library, playgroup or daycare, you can set up a **'Scribbling to Writing Corner'** where you display some fine motor activities in addition to the information booklet for parents.

Be sure to include the following in your corner:

- Pamphlets for parents
- 2-3 different activities for kids to try (rotate regularly)
- An attractive bulletin board with one of the 6 skills and activity ideas (PDF version of printable cards)
- Materials to make activities e.g. painting templates, construction paper, play dough recipe, etc. (optional)